

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

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SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /106 W

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R 032200Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2615

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ENRG: EIND, CA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH B.C.'S RESOURCE MINISTER

1. CONGEN ECON OFFICER RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH TOM WATERLAND, B.C.'S MINISTER FOR MINES, FORESTRY AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES, A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES.
2. WATERLAND WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE SAGE CREEK COAL DEPOSITS WOULD BE GIVEN A DEVELOPMENTAL GO AHEAD AND THAT NO REPEAT NO POLLUTION OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER WOULD RESULT. HE LATER HOWEVER EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE ECONOMICS OF THE PROJECT ARE SO "IFFY" THAT HE DOUBTED THEY WOULD BE DEVELOPED.
- 3# WATERLAND MADE AN OFF-HANDED STATEMENT CONCERNING AVAILABILITY OF BC GAS FOR EXPORT TO THE US THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS DOUBT ON HIS PART AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENTS ESTIMATE OF AVAILABLE SUPPLIES.
4. INTERNALLY WATERLAND SAID THAT BC'S MINERAL ROYALTIES ACT IS

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IN THE PROCESS OF BEING REWRITTEN WHICH SHOULD ENCOURGAE

MINING DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE. ON THE FORESTRY SIDE,
HE SAID THERE WERE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR LEGISLATION
AFFECTING THE INDUSTRY. IN BOTH INDUSTRIES, HE SAID THE
NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME IF NOT ENCOURAGE FOREIGN CAPITAL
INVESTMENT.
BURGOON

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NNN

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